

# National Digital Library Program

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uring the year, the Library's National Digital Library (NDL) Program significantly progressed toward its goal of making a critical mass of American historical materials accessible to all Americans by 2000, the Library's Bicentennial year.

In fiscal 1999, eighteen new multimedia historical collections were added to the American Memory Web site, bringing the total to sixty-eight. Eight existing collections were expanded with additional digital items. The Web site continued to receive widespread acclaim as a high-quality, educational, accessible Internet resource for American history and culture. In addition, four new Library exhibitions were mounted on the Library's Web site, including the major exhibitions *The Work of Charles and Ray Eames: A Legacy of Invention* and *Sigmund Freud: Conflict and Culture*. The online exhibition of *American Treasures of the Library of Congress* was periodically updated to include rotating collection items. (See also appendix G: Online Collections and Exhibitions.)

At year's end, 2.5 million Library of Congress items and 85,000 items from other collaborating institutions were available online or in digital archives. Approximately 2.5 million items from the Library's collections and other repositories were put into production as part of a national collaborative effort.

#### PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The NDL Program exceeded its goal of raising \$45 million from the private sector during the first phase of a multiyear fundraising effort that concluded in fiscal 1999. By year's end, \$48 million in private funds had been raised.

In the third and final year of a three-year competition made possible by a \$2 million gift from the Ameritech Foundation, the Library awarded a total of \$615,965 to twelve institutions to digitize American history collections and to make them available on the Library's American Memory Web site. A total of thirty-three award winners have now received support for their digitizing efforts. Five winning collections from the fiscal 1997 inaugural competition were completed and debuted on the Library's Web site in fiscal 1999.

The Library is a cosponsor of Phase II of the Digital Libraries Initiative, a multiyear research grant program led by the National Science Foundation that aims "to advance the use and usability of globally distributed, networked information resources, and to encourage existing and new communities to focus on innovative applications areas." An important aspect of the Library's sponsorship is an offer to make American Memory collections available to grantees to support research that will benefit future users of digital information in all libraries.

Through a grant from the Mellon Foundation, the Library collaborated with the New-York Historical Society and the Chicago Historical Society to integrate historically significant content from these important archives into the Library's American Memory Web site. The Library also entered into an agreement with Cornell University to enhance public access to 750,000 pages from popular nineteenth-century serials, including titles such as *Scientific American* and *Century*.

#### EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The widely popular online feature Today in History celebrated its second anniversary in April. The site, which remained popular with history and social studies teachers for use in their classrooms, continued to highlight events in American history in a brief essay linked to the Library's digitized collections.

The Learning Page provided search and curriculum guidance to teachers and students who use primary source materials from American Memory. The Learning Page also supported the NDL's teacher-training initiative and other educational outreach efforts that were available to all classrooms with Internet access.

During the year, helpful indexes especially designed for classroom searching were updated to include sixteen of the eighteen new American Memory collections and five existing collections with substantial content updates. Twenty-one summaries of resources pages and fifteen new "Learn More about It" collection essays for classroom use were created. Eight new lesson plans were added and five were enhanced for more consistent Web presentation. Four new online professional development workshops for teachers were created. A classroom activity about turn-of-the-century first ladies was also developed and made available on the Learning Page. A new "Frequently Asked Questions" document was created with a reference option.

In fiscal 1999, the Library of Congress held its third Educators Institute, which brought fifty educators from twenty states to Washington to explore use of primary sources in education and to develop lesson plans that draw on the American Memory online collections. Since 1997, this program has involved educators who are from thirty-five states and who have developed and tested lesson plans and then shared them with other educators nationwide through the Library's Learning Page.

Renovation of the NDL Visitors' Center in fiscal 1999 was made possible through a gift from the Microsoft Corporation. The new facility, renamed the Learning Center, included an improved theater area, a new sixteen-seat classroom, and a videoconferencing area. At year's end, several new educational programs were being developed to serve educators. During the year, the Learning Center hosted 513 programs for 7,810 visitors and responded to 4,740 reference requests received through electronic mail. The Learning Center hosted foreign scholars and dignitaries as well as members of Congress and their guests. The public was welcomed daily for demonstrations of the Library's online resources.